



JERSEY CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (JCEDC)

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April 18, 2008

The Hon Anne Quinlan, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D C 20423-0001

Re: Consolidated Rail Corp - Abandonment Exemption
Jersey City, NJ, AB 167 (Sub-no 1189X) and related proceedings

Dear Ms Quinlan

I am writing today in opposition at Conrail's proposed licensing action to a "notice of exemption" under this Board's fast track "class exemption" procedures (49 C F R 1152.50) to obtain abandonment authorization for a portion of the Harsimus Branch and for the Hudson Street Industrial Track, both located in Jersey City

Currently the Hudson Street Industrial Track or "the Embankment" provides six acres of crucial green space to Jersey City and an upland connection between the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway and East Coast Greenway. The Embankment is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and is also designated as historic under local and state law. In addition, the Embankment is surrounded on both the north and south sides by National Historic Districts. Destruction of the Embankment not only irreparably adversely impacts the Embankment, but also the adjoining historic districts. In addition, the Harsimus Branch referenced here may be National Register-eligible in its entirety. Conrail's proposed actions significantly adversely affect the environment. Rather than demolishing the Embankment as proposed by Conrail and its developer agent, the Embankment should be preserved as a park and trail, or for an ecologically sensitive rail alternative to relieve Jersey City's growing surface transportation congestion.

I urge you to reject the notice of exemption to Conrail.

Sincerely,

Daniel H. Frohwirth
Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy